

ELIZABETH M. MEAD.

JUNE 8, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HANSBROUGH, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4366.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4366) granting a pension to Elizabeth M. Mead, make the following report:

This is a bill to pension at the rate of \$12 a month Elizabeth M. Mead, widow of Nicholas D. Mead, and stepmother of Francis Mead, who enlisted as a private in Company H, Twenty-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry, November 14, 1861, and was killed at the battle of Bull Run, August 30, 1862.

Among the papers in the case is a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Pensions by the assistant adjutant-general, dated September 25, 1873, as follows:

The following information has been obtained from the files of this office, and is furnished in reply to your inquiry. In the case of Francis Mead there is no original enlistment or muster roll showing him to have been enrolled or mustered into the service of the United States as an enlisted man in Company H, Twenty-fourth New York Volunteers, on file in this office up to date. On the muster rolls of Company H of that regiment, dated December 31, 1861, it is stated that he enlisted as a private November 14, 1861, at Constantia, N. Y., and mustered in November 14, 1861, at Syracuse, N. Y., for two years. July, August, September, and October, 1862, "Killed in action August 30, 1862." The muster-out roll, dated May 29, 1863, reports him "Killed in action at Bull Run, August 30, 1862."

A letter addressed to the Pension Office by Col. F. C. Ainsworth, Chief of Record and Pension Office, dated April 12, 1898, says:

In the case of Francis Mead, Company H, Twenty-fourth New York Infantry, military records furnish the following in addition to that contained in report dated September 25, 1873 (the one above): February 28, 1862, present; to June 30, 1862, same. Name has not been found on rolls of Company G, Twenty-fourth New York Infantry. No medical record found.

The soldier's father, Nicholas D. Mead, married Delilah Doane March 14, 1840. Francis Mead was born July 4, 1841. His mother died at Ellisburg, N. Y., April 1, 1848.

The papers in the case show that Elizabeth M. Mead—the person mentioned in bill to receive pension—was married to the soldier's

father, Nicholas D. Mead, May 11, 1848, when the soldier was about 6 years and 10 months old, and that she gave him a mother's care from that time until he enlisted in the United States service at the age of 20. It also appears that soldier left no widow or children.

July 16, 1873, the soldier's father, Nicholas D. Mead, filed a claim for pension at the Pension Office as dependent father, and had his case about completed when he died, April 15, 1875, at Centerville, N. Y. The evidence filed in the father's case shows that for a number of years before the soldier went into the service his father had been in poor health and depended upon his son's labor in keeping the family. It is also shown that the soldier sent his father as much as \$85 for the latter's use while he was in the war.

Inasmuch as the soldier was killed in battle, fighting for his country, and his father having died before his claim was adjudicated, and in view of the fact that Elizabeth M. Mead became the stepmother of the soldier when he was very young, giving him a mother's care, and that she is now in her seventieth year, in poor health and destitute circumstances, your committee urgently recommend that said bill do pass.